



National Volunteer Fire Council White Paper on Training

The Value of Training

The role of the fire service has evolved over the years to encompass far more than traditional fire suppression. Fire suppression itself has become a more multi-faceted undertaking, as improvements in technology have revolutionized the way that firefighters attack a working fire. As the breadth and scope of what it means to be a firefighter has expanded, the necessity for training within the fire service has grown. Untrained firefighters responding to emergencies can be unsafe, dangerous, and inefficient.

Consequences of Poor/Insufficient/Lack of Requirements

Insufficient training can have negative economic impacts as well, both on the department and the community. Liability issues can be a serious problem for departments. A lack of training could be perceived as negligence. In 1989, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *City of Canton v. Harris* that a city can be held liable for failing to properly train its employees. In Canada that same year, firefighters in the Province of Quebec were found liable for damages caused by the negligence of its firefighters. An inclusive training program is essential in protecting a department from potential litigation. Firefighter injury or death can also create an economic burden for departments and communities.

Indiana State Fire Academy Training System - offers free training for the following certification levels. Contact your local district fire training council representative to find out when courses are being offered to discuss hosting a course in your county. Courses are delivered for multiple agencies in a district.

Firefighter I/II
Mandatory
Haz Mat Awareness
Haz Mat Operations
Technical Rescue Awareness
Fire Officer I
Fire Officer II
Fire Instructor I
Fire Instructor II/III
Driver Operator/Pumper
Driver Operator Aerial
Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply
Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics
Safety Officer

Other courses may be available based upon demonstrated need and budget availability.